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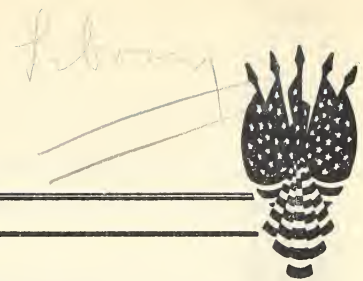
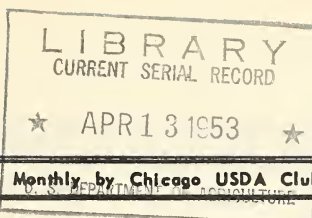
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USDA NEWS IN CHICAGO

January, 1953

Published Monthly by Chicago USDA Club

NEW PRESIDENT

CLUB TO UNVEIL
AGRIQUIZ JAN. 22



Dr. Otto W. Seher of the Bureau of Animal Industry was elected president of the Chicago USDA Club for 1953 at an election held at the December Club meeting.

Dr. Seher has been in federal service for 39 years and has served as president of the St. Louis USDA Club and the National Association of Federal Veterinarians. He is a native of Colorado.

Other officers who were elected are:

Maurice Ward of PMA,
Annette Schnell of PMA,
Esther Gilbert of CEA,

VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER

"AGRIQUIZ" is the newest and most unique quiz show in town.

Come to the January 22 USDA Club meeting and see its premiere.

You'll have an opportunity to be a contestant and to win fame and fortune! (Yes, there's money involved.)

There'll be a quiz master and a panel of experts and a lot of fun.

Make your reservation with Betty Thompson, WEBster 9-7000, Ext. 149.

USDA EMPLOYEES PLAY SANTA

Extra special blessings were said Christmas night by many needy children in Chicago. Their blessings were for USDA employees who helped make their Christmas a happier one by making possible a Christmas complete with toys and joys.

Federal Crop Insurance employees deposited money in a Christmas Cheer fund they ordinarily would have spent in sending Christmas cards to each other. The fund amounted to \$226 this year and was distributed to four Chicago orphanages.

Robert Kongsgaard and Mrs. Laurel Tiedt made the selection of institutions to receive the money this year.

Ninety-two needy children received Christmas stockings filled by employees of the PMA Commodity Office, each stocking containing one useful gift, candy and toys. The stockings were supplied and distributed by the Illinois Club for Catholic Women, with Mary Riordan acting as coordinator of the program in PMA.



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FOREIGN VISITORS REPORT

Excerpts from report by Dr. Wolfgang Clauss and Ruth Frieda Echle, of Germany, guests at the October USDA Club meeting.

"We are sincerely grateful to the country that has made possible this tour, and to those whose unstinting cooperation contributed to its success."

"We noted with interest and surprise how much space, measured by German standards, many American newspapers allot to farming subjects."

"The outstanding feature of all the meetings which we attended is the sound psychology and intelligence with which they are handled. Common prayer, community singing and meals, etc., increase a sense of unity from the start."

"The European peasant and the American farmer are two individuals of the same species. They are very much alike in character."

"We became acquainted with the American pride of nation and have high regard for it."

"We depart from this happy country with a deep sense of gratitude."

NEW MEMBER

Miss Esther Jean Benson of the FMA Commodity office was accepted to membership in the Chicago USDA Club at the December meeting.

RIF REGULATIONS REVISED

A revision of the reduction-in-force regulations was announced by the Civil Service Commission on December 24 to take effect February 15, 1953.

The main change is a reduction in the number of "retention groups." After February 15, there will be only three:

Group I - Career

Employees who have completed probation and are not "Temporary" or "Indefinite."

Group II - Career-Conditional

Probationary employees and those who are "Temporary" or "Indefinite" as a result of promotion, transfer, or reinstatement.

Group III - Indefinite

Employees serving under non-status non-temporary appointments.

Within each group, employees having veteran's preference will fall in sub-group "A" and all others in sub-group "B".

Employees with appointments having a time limitation and those with "unsatisfactory" performance ratings would be separated before those in groups I, II, and III.

Employees in Group III would be next to go, then Group II and finally Group I. Within each group, non-veterans (sub-group "B") would be separated before veterans (sub-group "A").

Other changes are: Furloughs without pay will be granted only when a return to duty is contemplated at a later date. Separated employees will be carried on a re-employment list for 1 year. This gives them priority for future reappointment.

HOG BUTCHER FOR THE WORLD

"Hog butcher for the world" is the way Carl Sandburg said it in his poem "Chicago" written more than 39 years ago.

He might also have said it today because Chicago's Union Stock Yards received 2,887,000 head of hogs for sale during 1952, the largest receipts in the world.

And Mr. Sandburg might have added a line to his poem back in 1914. He might have said "greatest livestock market in the world" and it would be true today too. Chicago received more cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep than any other market in 1952 - 6,726,000 head.

Chicago's first slaughter house, a log cabin, was built in 1827 by Archibald Clybourn who supplied meat to the soldiers at Fort Dearborn.

In 1832, Chicago began to help feed the world with the first shipment of meat from 152 head of cattle going by wagon train to New York.

The Chicago Daily Democrat of September 26, 1848 said: "One firm, Wadsworth, Dyer, and Co., has already contracted for a thousand head of cattle. We have seen letters from their commission house in Boston, stating that their beef takes the lead over that shipped from Maine; and also one from England to the same company stating that as long as their beef is kept up to its present standard, there is no fear that it will compete successfully with the best Irish brands. In consequence of superiority, most of the beef packed in this city goes to England or Boston."

In that same year - when the population numbered 20,000 - the first regular livestock market, the Bull's Head Stock Yards, was opened at Ogden Avenue and West Madison Street.

During the next few years other Stock Yards were opened, but none of them ever gained any prominence.

By the early 1860's, Chicago had need of a centralized stock yards. She was becoming the main railroad center of the nation and her location in the center of the corn production area made the city an ideal place for farmers to ship their livestock to be sold.

A committee, under the direction of John B. Sherman, drew up plans for such a yard and chose the site of 39th to 47th Streets, between Halsted and Ashland Avenue. Work began on the actual construction on June 1, 1865 and on Christmas Day of that same year, the Stock Yards was formally opened and has never closed its doors for any reason since that time.

Today, in Chicago's Stock Yards, the three largest meat packers in the world have their headquarters. In addition, there are smaller packers, firms who specialize in processing only one type of livestock product, sausage casing manufacturers, and animal fat renderers.

And where livestock is being sold or converted into meat, you'll find Department of Agriculture people. The Bureau of Animal Industry staff in Chicago includes 282 people, engaged in inspecting live animals for disease, and making sure the meat is safe for human food. The Livestock Branch of Production and Marketing Administration, with 79 staff members, reports the prices at which livestock sells each day; enforces the laws and regulations governing the Stock Yards, packing plants, and commission firms which sell livestock for farmers; and grades meat on the basis of quality as a service to the meat industry and to consumers. Three hundred sixty-one assistants to the "hog butcher for the world."

